

**From:** Robert L. Butler  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 1:16pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

*Robert L. Butler*  
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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

BY E-MAIL

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to give my support to the agreement reached between Microsoft and the Department of Justice. I did not support the initial lawsuit. This suit was brought more out of political and professional enmity than any supposed damage to the consumer, the necessary basis for antitrust action. Bill Gates produced a better product, the standardization of computer software. Granted, Microsoft was aggressive, and at times heavy-handed.

Microsoft has been chastened though. Both parties agreed to a settlement that is, for the most part, fair. Microsoft has agreed to open the company up more to third party innovation, has agreed to a uniform price list, has agreed to a technical oversight committee, and has agreed to interface disclosure. Microsoft is obviously trying to meet the demands of the Department of Justice.

It is time to move forward. We have more important things to worry about. We need to put our economy back on track; allowing one of our major companies to get back to work is one way to do this. I urge you to give your support to this measure.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Butler